



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/)

For Immediate Release  
September 29, 2004

Contact: Kim Erdelyi  
517-373-1801

## **Sen. Hardiman's efforts included in newly approved Family Independence Agency budget**

**LANSING** – Projects that promote marriage and fatherhood are some of the efforts that are in the newly approved Family Independence Agency budget, Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, announced today, after the governor signed the budget bill into law.

Hardiman, who chairs the Senate FIA appropriations subcommittee, pushed to ensure those programs receive state funding in the 2005 fiscal year. Hardiman also serves as chairman of the Families and Human Services Committee, which oversees FIA.

“In this budget we’re addressing core social problems in our state by encouraging strong marriages and trying to keep fathers involved with their children, while also aiding adoption and foster care programs,” Hardiman said. “Encouraging marriage and reducing the amount of absent fathers help young people get a good start in life.”

The budget funds marriage-initiative programs with \$250,000 of federal funds and allocates \$200,000 to begin a fatherhood-initiative program.

“Unless we start spending funds on root causes and structural issues, all future FIA spending will only be funding the effects and not the causes of so many issues for the department’s clients,” Hardiman said.

Some of the other budget highlights include:

- Funding for the Before and After School Program, \$5 million;
- A 3-percent increase for foster care payments to child-placing agencies and residential treatment facilities, as well as a 1-percent increase for foster and adoptive parents;
- A \$50 per child increase in the clothing allowance, using federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families money; and
- Creation of an Affordable Housing Fund, \$2 million.

###